Development Update

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT EVENTS No. 2 MARCH - APRIL 1994

THE MAIN EVENTS

25 April - 6 May 1994
Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States
(Bridgetown, Barbados) page 1

23 - 27 May 1994
World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction
(Yokohama, Japan) page 6

5 - 13 September 1994
International Conference on Population and Development
(Cairo, Egypt) page 3

Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatement of Offenders
(Venues and dates to be announced) page 7

6 - 12 March 1995
World Summit for Social Development
(Copenhagen, Denmark) page 5

4 - 15 September 1995
Fourth World Conference on Women
(Beijing, China) page 2

24 October 1995
United Nations 50th Anniversary

26 April - 9 May 1996
United Nations Conference on Human Settlements — Habitat II
(Istanbul, Turkey) page 5

See page 8 for more detailed calendar

Secretary-General stresses coordinated UN action for development

Stronger system-wide coordination is needed to fulfill the United Nations' sweeping development responsibilities, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali said in a 24 March address to the Global Meeting of the UN Development Programme (UNDP).

His appearance at this annual meeting, the first ever by a UN Secretary-General, reflected the growing momentum towards the unified approach that Mr. Boutros-Ghali initiated when he took charge of the Organization two years ago.

"Only the UN has the breadth of approach and the ability to integrate political, social and economic development into one coherent vision", the Secretary-General told the Rye, New York, gathering of about 200, including UNDP Administrator James Gustave Speth and about 125 UNDP resident representatives from around the world. "If we are to succeed, the entire United Nations system must work in partnership".

The Secretary-General addressed the need to "re-define our strengths" and "re-think development" in the post-cold war era. "We must integrate the previously separate concepts of peace and security, on the one hand, and social and economic development, on the other", Mr. Boutros-Ghali said. "Development must now be seen as part of the task of building a more secure and peaceful world community for everyone.

"Similarly, emergency relief and development cannot be pursued as separate, unrelated activities. Relief, rehabilitation and development must be part of a continuum".

Addressing this diverse array of pressing global concerns makes "unity of purpose" essential for effective action by the United Nations family, said

continues on page 4

Small Islands Programme to be launched in Barbados

The lagoons, coral reefs and rain forests of small island countries are under increasing environmental stress, and their apparently idyllic separation from the rest of the world in fact imposes a handicap on economic development. To deal with these problems in "paradise", representatives of some 100 Governments will meet in Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April - 6 May for the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States.

Their central task will be to negotiate a Programme of Action. Broad agreement on the first 14 chapters, covering the vulnerabilities of small island states and measures to address their needs, was reached at the March Preparatory Committee meeting in New York. But key questions on financing, implementing and monitoring the plan were not resolved.

"We are going to Barbados with some brackets" (unresolved portions of text), admitted PrepCom Chair Ambassador Penelope Wensley of Australia. She expressed confidence that differences over the amount of international financing will be settled in Bridgetown.

The Programme calls for limitations on greenhouse gas emissions worldwide in order to forestall climate change and a consequent rise in the sea-level, natural disaster preparedness, water and land conservation, measures to overcome transportation and communication difficulties, environmentally sustainable tourism and protection of the many biological species that are unique to small islands.

Also being presented to the Conference is the Barbados Declaration. Prepared by the host country, the Declaration addresses the reasons that make small islands especially vulnerable to environmental degradation.

Workshops organized by non-governmental organizations for the NGO Islands Forum are run-

continues on page 7

Development Update

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT EVENTS No. 2 MARCH - APRIL 1994

Women: Setting the stage for Beijing

Agreement on a Draft Platform for Action for the 1995 Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing was reached by the Commission on the Status of Women, holding its 38th Session and also acting as the Preparatory Committee for the Conference. Meeting in New York 7-18 March, the Commission identified ten critical areas of concern and 11 strategic objectives for achieving full and equal participation of women in all spheres of life. Input from five regional preparatory conferences scheduled for later this year (see Calendar, back page) will be incorporated when the Commission discusses the final draft of the Platform at its 39th session in March 1995.

"In the process of preparing for Beijing," said Conference Secretary-General Gertrude Mongella, "the image of women as strong players and managers of change is crucial" in tearing down obstacles to full equality. "The Fourth World Conference on Women is also an opportunity", she added "for women all over the world to use the diversity of their backgrounds as a strength to eliminate the low status of women in society".

The PrepCom downplayed North-South differences and disputes over how much action programmes will cost and who will pay for them, issues that have come rapidly to the fore in other global conferences on social development. Even so, some developing country representatives said that the problem of acute poverty needs to be addressed with greater urgency, while joining general agreement that women's issues should be of top priority and are inseparable from the global agenda.

The 10 critical areas of concern, as they now are stated in the Draft Platform for Action are:

A. The persistent and growing burden of poverty on women.

B. Inequality in access to education, health and related services and means of maximizing the use of women's capacities.

C. Violence against women.

D. Effects of armed and other kinds of conflicts on women.

E. Inequality in women's access to and participation in the definition of economic structures and policies and the productive process itself.

F. Inequality between men and women in the sharing of power and decision-making at all levels.

G. Insufficient mechanisms at all levels to promote the advancement of women.

H. Lack of awareness of, and commitment to, internationally and nationally recognized women's human rights.

I. Insufficient use of mass media to promote women's positive contributions to society.

J. Lack of adequate recognition and support for women's contribution to managing natural resources and safeguarding the environment.

The 11 strategic objectives, derived from the critical areas of concern, identify action to be taken by the international community, governments, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), the private sector and individuals.

International Women's Day on 8 March occurred during the 38th Session. Ms. Mongella, Ireland's President Mary Robinson and Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali were among those who addressed a United Nations audience of 700 at a commemoration ceremony highlighting the importance of the upcoming World Conference.

For more information contact
The Division for the
Advancement of Women
Room DC2-1220
United Nations
New York, NY 10017, USA
Tel. (212) 963-8056
Fax (212) 963-4363

NGOs speak out

About 110 non-governmental organizations (NGOs) from all continents were accredited to the 38th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women/PrepCom for the 1995 World Conference. Meeting at daily caucuses to unify and exchange views, NGOs were actively involved in the deliberations on the Draft Platform for Action. Equally important were nearly 80 NGO workshops accompanying the PrepCom.

The Division for the Advancement of Women/Fourth World Conference on Women Secretariat is receiving up to 10 applications a day from NGOs seeking accreditation to participate in the Conference.

For more information contact
NGO Planning Committee
777 UN Plaza, 8th Floor
New York, NY 10017, USA
Tel. (212) 986-0987
Fax (212) 986-0821

15 May is the International Day of Families

Beginning this year, 15 May will be observed annually as the International Day of Families. This year's theme, "Building the Smallest Democracy at the Heart of Society", promotes understanding of the role of families, the problems they face, economic and social influences, and family members' rights and responsibilities.

The new Day, established by General Assembly resolution 47/237, enhances the proclamation of 1994 as the International Year of the Family and reflects the importance of family concerns among the international community.

Development Update

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT EVENTS No. 2 MARCH - APRIL 1994

Draft Programme on the table at Population PrepCom

Delegates from more than 150 member States are negotiating the Draft Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) at the third and final session of the ICPD Preparatory Committee (PrepCom III), taking place at UN Headquarters from 4-22 April.

The Conference to be held in Cairo, Egypt, from 5-13 September of this year will seek to ensure more effective national policies and programmes, and expanded international support, to meet individual needs and bring population into balance with available resources. A key objective is to fulfill the needs of the estimated 120 million women who are not currently using a modern family planning method but would use one if accurate information and affordable services were more easily available.

The draft Programme of Action (A/CONF.171/PC.5) is the principal focus of PrepCom III. Its 16 chapters span the full spectrum of issues addressed by the Conference mandate — "population, sustained economic growth and sustainable development". Conference Secretary-General Dr. Nafis Sadik prepared the document in response to last year's directives from the second ICPD PrepCom, the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and the UN General Assembly.

Extensive input to Programme

The draft Programme draws on the recommendations of five regional population conferences, six expert group meetings, several sub-regional meetings, a series of ad hoc round tables on priority Conference themes, and numerous submissions from delegations, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and others. NGOs have played an active role in ICPD preparations: over 400 participated in PrepCom II, and an additional 300 have applied for accreditation to PrepCom III and the Conference.

Three informal, intergovernmental consultations on the draft document were held at UN Headquarters prior to PrepCom III. At the first, on 22 February, Dr. Sadik presented an overview of the document and delegations commented on various aspects of the draft.

Details on the quantitative goals and resource requirements proposed in the draft Programme were released 10 March at the second consultation. Covering the years 1995-2015, the goals relate to three mutually supporting areas: education, especially for girls; reduction of infant, child and maternal mortality; and provision of universal access to family planning and reproductive health services.

The Draft Programme estimates national resource requirements for four packages of population and family planning activities in developing countries and countries in economic transition. The total annual costs for the four packages (comprised of family planning; reproductive health care; prevention of sexually transmitted diseases; and data collection, analysis and dissemination) are projected to be $13.2 billion in 2000 and $17 billion in 2015 (in 1994 US dollars). International financial assistance to support these activities is projected to be $4.4 billion in 2000 and $5.7 billion in 2015.

In addition to resources, goals and follow-up, the PrepCom is carefully considering the draft programme's recommendations for local, national and international action (see box).

Concurrent with intergovernmental negotiations, NGOs are holding daily presentations, workshops, panel discussions, briefing sessions and caucuses on Conference-related topics.

For more information on NGO participation contact
The NGO Planning Committee for the ICPD
777 UN Plaza, 8th floor
New York, NY 10017, USA
Tel. (212) 545-7344, Fax (212) 745-7581

Draft Programme recommends local, national and international action in regard to:

- The integration into development strategies of population, sustained economic growth and sustainable development concerns, including poverty alleviation and environmental considerations.
- Gender equality and the empowerment of women, in relation to women's status, equality for girls, and male responsibilities in family planning and child-rearing.
- The diversity of family roles, composition and structure.
- Fertility, mortality and population growth, youthful and ageing populations, and indigenous people.
- Reproductive rights, reproductive health and family planning, including sexually transmitted diseases, human sexuality and gender relations, and the needs of adolescents.
- Primary health care, infant and child mortality, maternal morbidity and mortality, and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS).
- Population distribution, urbanization and internal migration.
- Legal and illegal international migration, and the rights of refugees and asylum seekers.
- Population information, education and communication, and technology, research and development.

Development Update

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT EVENTS No. 2 MARCH - APRIL 1994

Development and peace linked: Secretary-General

continues from page 1

the Secretary-General. "System coordination is a major strategic issue. It affects our cohesion and effectiveness, and our identity. It is no more and no less than the key to future leadership of the United Nations in the field of development".

Acknowledging that donor nations have grown weary and that the world of development is in crisis, the Secretary-General reminded the meeting of the critical needs of developing countries.

"In the developing world, despite all the years of development advice and all the efforts made by multilateral and bilateral institutions, standards of living continue to decline", he said. "There is a need to mobilize political support and to generate resources. We must make a new case for overseas development assistance. We must stimulate public opinion on key issues of global concern".

Development programmes closer to the ground

As part of his ongoing restructuring of the UN system, the Secretary-General said he is working towards "the progressive decentralization of the economic and social activities of the Organization to the regional and national level — closer to the countries they serve". UNDP had a vital role in that regard, he asserted, since it is one of the Organization's key instruments in discharging its Charter mandate to promote "conditions of economic and social progress, and development", and "the coordination of the policies and activities of the specialized agencies".

The Secretary-General announced that the April meeting in Geneva of the Administrative Committee for Coordination, which is attended by executive heads of all UN specialized agencies and programmes, will assess progress in responding to Agenda 21 (listing the goals set by the 1992 Earth Summit — UN Conference on Environment and Development, in Rio de Janeiro), as well as mobilizing resources for the upcoming global development conferences and the UN's 50th Anniversary in 1995. There will also be a review of human rights-development linkages, following up on the 1993 Vienna World Conference on Human Rights.

"I will ask (the executive heads) to review the way they collaborate with each other in a wholly new international environment", the Secretary-General said. "At the meeting, I intend to stress the dangers and serious challenges we face. But I will also point to the unprecedented opportunities before us, provided the system approaches the new realities in a united way, and member agencies are prepared to adjust and reform".

Mobilizing opinion for peace-keeping, development

Assistant Secretary-General for Public Information Samir Sanbar also spoke at the meeting, in which Executive Director of the UN Population Fund Dr. Nafis Sadik, Under-Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development Nitin Desai, Under-Secretary-General for Development Support and Management Services Ji Chaozu and Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs Peter Hansen participated. Mr. Sanbar highlighted the crucial role that communication and information needed to play in mobilizing popular international support for both development and peace-keeping. To do this, a coordinated approach to UN public information strategies and activities is essential.

The Department of Public Information (DPI) and UNDP will cooperate in attaining a unified image for the UN's development work, he emphasized. DPI and UNDP had pioneered the UN Integrated Offices and should continue this integrating process.

"Peace-keeping, development and public information are inter-related in the mandate of the UN", he said. "Peace-keeping need not only be blue helmets, it could also be T-shirts. We need to highlight the human dimension and the humanitarian role of peace-keeping missions that far too many people see as being primarily military in nature".

Mr. Sanbar stressed the importance of preparations for the UN's upcoming global conferences on small islands, natural disasters, population, crime prevention, social development and women. All of them, he noted, are directly concerned with development.

"Bring together the UN family"

The UNDP "must work to bring together the family of UN programmes and agencies", UNDP Administrator James Gustave Speth said in his opening remarks to the 21-25 March Global Meeting in Rye, New York. "We must be a unifying force for the UN family through service and partnerships.

"UNDP must be able to repond flexibly and ably to the wide variety of new responsibilities being thrust upon the UN", he continued. These responsibilities include relief for humanitarian emergencies, assistance to refugees and provision of in-depth expertise to countries in transitional situations such as post-conflict rehabilitation and the introduction of market economies.

"We must help forge the operational links among the UN's work for peace-building, refugees, humanitarian assistance, democracy, environment, population and development", he said. "If not us, who?"

First PrepCom advances Programme towards Social Summit

The Preparatory Committee for the World Summit for Social Development made substantive progress at its 31 January-11 February initial session in New York, producing an outline for a Draft Declaration and a Draft Programme of Action.

The Summit will bring together heads of State or Government in Copenhagen, Denmark, 6-12 March 1995, to reach agreement on global strategies and policies.

It was agreed that the Summit Declaration should concisely state values and objectives for social development policies worldwide. Further, it would reaffirm relevant international agreements, instruments, declarations and decisions already adopted by the UN system. Material prepared at the PrepCom for the Declaration and Programme of Action includes a description of the world social situation and the rationale for convening the Summit; principles, goals and policies to be addressed locally, regionally and globally; a statement of commitment and means for implementation and follow-up.

The Programme of Action will focus on strategies in five areas: ensuring an enabling environment for social development; reducing and eliminating widespread poverty; creating productive employment and reducing unemployment; social integration; and implementation and follow-up, taking advantage of the unique capabilities of the UN system, international financial institutions and leading intergovernmental organizations.

The documents presented to the PrepCom encompass a diversity of views, Under-Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development Nitin Desai told the session on its opening day. Mr. Desai, whose Department is the home of the Summit secretariat, expressed confidence that "common positions will evolve" on the way to Copenhagen. Diversity of opinion is to be expected and encouraged, he said, in a debate "which concerns nothing less than the essential aspects of the human condition".

PrepCom Chairman and Chile's Ambassador to the UN, Juan Somavia, said that political action on a global scale is necessary in a period when "local tensions become national and national disruptions spill over into international tensions".

The PrepCom asked the UN Secretariat to prepare working drafts of the Declaration and Programme of Action by 1 June. The texts will be circulated to all interested parties prior to PrepCom's second session in New York, 22 August - 2 September. Draft texts will be negotiated and finalized at the January 1995 session, again to be held in New York.

Also to be prepared by the UN Secretariat in time for the second session will be: a review of conventions, declarations and other international commitments by Member States relating to social development and the three core issues, along with procedures for monitoring and reporting on these commitments; an updating of PrepCom's Working Paper #2, which covers UN social development-related activites; and an update of Working Paper #3, a compilation of relevant publications and social development indicators from the UN system.

The PrepCom's next challenge is practical, according to Ambassador Somavia. "This exchange of views has shown convergence on what to do", he said. "We now need to agree on priorities and how to achieve them".

For more information contact
Secretariat of the World Summit for Social Development
DPCSD, Room DC2-1370
United Nations, NY 10017, USA

Habitat II PrepCom debates future of cities

A draft plan for saving cities as liveable environments is under consideration at the 11-22 April meeting of the Preparatory Committee for the 1996 United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, known as Habitat II. The first Habitat conference was held in 1976 in Vancouver, Canada.

The urban focus of the Conference is reflected in the central theme recently adopted by its secretariat: "The Future of Cities". The theme of the Conference, which will be held 3-14 June 1996 in Istanbul, Turkey, reflects the fact that nearly 90 per cent of the world's population increase will be absorbed by cities in developing countries, where shelter, transportation, water and sanitation facilities are already in short supply.

April's PrepCom session in Geneva is focused on a draft Statement of Principles and Commitments and a draft Global Plan of Action, expected to be adopted by the Conference itself. The UN General Assembly has requested that Habitat II develop a plan for arresting the deterioration of housing worldwide and creating conditions for improved living environments.

For more information contact
UN Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)
Room DC2-0943, United Nations, New York, NY 10017, USA
Tel. (212) 963-4200, Fax (212) 963-8721

Desertification talks heat up

Financial support and preparation of regional action plans were at the top of the agenda at the fourth negotiating session for an International Convention to Combat Desertification, held 21-31 March in Geneva. Negotiating Committee Chairman Hama Arba Diallo says he is confident that the June target for signing the Convention will be met.

The draft text of the convention recognizes that economic pressures are a major cause of depletion of water and vegetation resources. It calls for action to promote enabling economic conditions and sustainable development in affected nations, including debt-relief measures and improved market access for exports. Countries party to the convention would be obliged to give priority to combatting desertification. Donor countries are expected to facilitate access to finance and technology to support these efforts at the national, sub-regional and regional levels.

Donor countries, however, had objected to establishing a new anti-desertification fund at the third negotiating session in January, arguing that better use should be made of existing programmes. Mr. Diallo has stated that new institutions may not be needed, but insisted on the critical importance of additional funding. The long-term impact of desertification — speeding global warming, reducing the number of species and setting off mass migrations away from desiccated regions — is motivation enough for donor countries to provide the necessary support, he said. And donors will be encouraged by the fact that the convention would bind both donor and directly affected countries to mutually agreed actions.

A decision to draw up a plan for meeting Africa's priority needs was approved at the January negotiating session in New York. Asian and Latin American reservations about concentrating on Africa were satisfied by a decision to create similar instruments for those regions. Preliminary texts for Asian and Latin American instruments were discussed at the Geneva session.

Another outstanding issue is that of common but differentiated responsibilities: developed countries want financial assistance to come from a wider group of countries which are in a position to provide assistance, while developing countries such as Malaysia, Brazil, India, China and Argentina counter that assistance should continue to come from traditional donor countries.

Disaster Reduction PrepCom outlines strategy

At its meeting 14-18 March in Geneva, Switzerland, the Preparatory Committee for the 1994 World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction adopted the outline of a global strategy for reducing the impact of events such as earthquakes, hurricanes, floods, droughts and other natural disasters. Despite scientific and technological advances, such disasters continue to take a heavy toll in human life and material losses. Losses sustained by developing countries from natural calamities reached $62 billion in 1992, surpassing for the first time the total amount of development aid these countries receive.

The World Conference will be held in Yokohama, Japan 23-27 May, and is part of the mid-term review of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (IDNDR). The Yokohama Conference will seek national and international commitments to natural disaster reduction programmes and the linking of disaster management with sustainable development.

Dr. Olavi Elo, Director of the IDNDR secretariat in the UN Department of Humanitarian Affairs, stressed the importance of bringing appropriate technology and resources to developing countries. Early warning systems can track storms and predict droughts. Safely constructed homes and buildings have better chances of withstanding storms and earthquakes. Improved land management diminishes the effects of drought and floods.

"We may not be able to prevent the natural events from occurring, but we can prevent them from becoming disasters", he said.

Representatives of the scientific and technical community and of the private sector will join representatives of Governments, UN agencies and programmes, and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations in a working partnership at the Conference.

The PrepCom was followed by regional meetings in Cartagena, Colombia; New Delhi, India; and Amman, Jordan. The results of these meetings, as well as those of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, being held in Barbados in April, will contribute to the deliberations at the Yokohama Conference.

For more information contact: The IDNDR Secretariat, Department of Humanitarian Affairs, United Nations Office at Geneva, Palais des Nations CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland. Fax 41 22 733 8695
E-Mail: InterNet DHAGVA(a)cgnet.com

Crime prevention at international crossroads

• Firearms are smuggled across Namibia's thousands of miles of open borders by criminal and political groups disrupting the chances for peaceful political transitions in Angola and South Africa; the South African groups finance themselves in part by large-scale traffic in elephant tusks.

• The Boryokudans from Japan are among a growing number of Asian crime syndicates whose operations are extending from drugs, gambling and extortion into arms traffic, forced prostitution, illegal transport of migrant workers and stock market manipulation .

• Latin American drug cartels are expanding worldwide, but the costs are mounting for citizens at home: corruption and intimidation of public officials; drug use and violent crime, particularly among young people.

• Across Europe, migrants, refugees and displaced persons are increasingly subject to attack, while social and economic difficulties lead many of them to involvement in crime.

• Counterfeiting in Western Asia threatens economic, social and political security by undermining confidence in national currencies.

These items, from reports by Governments to five regional meetings held this year in preparation for the 1995 Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, are indicative of what Chief of the UN Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch Eduardo Vetere calls a "crucial moment" for criminal justice systems and devastated communities.

"The authorities are increasingly outgunned and technologically overmatched by organized crime", Mr. Vetere said on 7 March at the African regional meeting in Kamapla, Uganda.

The regional meetings focused on the four themes that will guide the 1995 Congress: international cooperation and practical technical assistance for strengthening the rule of law; action against national and transnational economic and organized crime, and the role of criminal law in protecting the environment; improvement of criminal justice system management; and strategies for preventing urban crime, violent criminality and juvenile crime.

Recommendations made by the regional meetings include:

• improvements in general living standards to be sought as a fundamental methodology for preventing crime;

• codification as criminal offences acts against social welfare, the environment and the economy;

• simplification of procedures for transfer of evidence between countries;

• building into UN peace-keeping operations a component for re-establishing and reforming criminal justice systems;

• strengthened training and technological support for developing countries;

• and incorporation into African legal systems of traditional methods of justice, such as processes for mediation, social reconciliation, restitution of stolen goods and non-custodial sentencing.

Recommendations will be submitted to the Congress via the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, which meets in Vienna 25 April - 6 May 1994.

The Economic and Social Council is expected to decide on the dates and venue for the Ninth Congress in July this year.

For more information contact
UN Crime Prevention and
Criminal Justice Branch
United Nations Office at Vienna
P.O. Box 500
A-1400 Vienna, Austria
Tel. 43-1-211-31-4269

Small Islands Programme to be launched in Barbados

continues from page 1

ning concurrently with the Conference.

The Conference's innovative features include:

• International experts at the intergovernmental sessions will present case studies on substantive issues such as sustainable tourism and the management of environmentally and economically crucial coastal zones.

• The "Village of Hope", located alongside the NGO Forum, will be a wide-ranging exposition complete with a theme park of sustainable development concepts.

• "SusTech '94", organized by the Barbados Manufacturers Association, will demonstrate environmentally sound technologies appropriate to small island states.

For more information contact: The Secretariat for the Global Conference, Room S-2977E, United Nations, New York 10017, USA
Tel. (212) 963-7074, Fax (212) 963-5935

In the previous issue of Development Update, *Ambassador Penelope Wensley was incorrectly identified. She is the Permanent Representative of Australia to the United Nations in Geneva.*

Development Update

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT EVENTS No. 2 MARCH- APRIL 1994

CALENDAR 1994

7 - 11 March
Preparatory Committee for the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, resumed first session (New York, USA)

7 - 18 March
Commission on the Status of Women/Preparatory Committee for the Fourth World Conference on Women (New York, USA)

14 - 18 March
Preparatory Committee for the World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction (Geneva, Switzerland)

21 - 29 March
World Telecommunication Development Conference (Buenos Aires, Argentina)

21 - 31 March
Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on the International Convention on Desertification (Geneva, Switzerland)

5 - 22 April
Preparatory Committee for the International Conference on Population and Development (New York, USA)

11 - 22 April
Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements — Habitat II (Geneva, Switzerland)

25 April - 6 May
Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (Bridgetown, Barbados)

16 - 27 May
Commission on Sustainable Development (New York, USA)

23 - 27 May
World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction (Yokohama, Japan)

6 - 17 June
Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on the International Convention on Desertification and the Opening for Signing of the Convention (Paris, France)

7 - 14 June
Asian and Pacific Regional Preparatory Conference for the Fourth World Conference on Women (Jakarta, Indonesia)

22 August - 2 September
Preparatory Committee for the World Summit for Social Development (New York, USA)

5 - 13 September
International Conference on Population and Development (Cairo, Egypt)

19 - 23 September
Regional NGO Forum for Latin America and the Caribbean, Fourth World Conference on Women (Mar del Plata, Argentina)

26 - 30 September
Latin American and Caribbean Regional Preparatory Conference for the Fourth World Conference on Women (Mar del Plata, Argentina)

13 - 15 October
Regional NGO Forum for Europe, Fourth World Conference on Women (Vienna, Austria)

17 - 21 October
European Regional Preparatory Conference for the Fourth World Conference on Women (Vienna, Austria)

6 - 10 November
Western Asian Regional Preparatory Conference for the Fourth World Conference on Women (Amman, Jordan)

14 - 17 November
Regional NGO Forum for Africa, Fourth World Conference on Women (Dakar, Senegal)

16 - 23 November
African Regional Preparatory Conference for the Fourth World Conference on Women (Dakar, Senegal)

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